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* 2823 Q.—Sri K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of students that applied for the various courses of study in the Central Polytechnic, Madras; and

(b) the number of students belonging to the forward classes, Backward Classes and Scheduled Classes that were admitted?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) & (b) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

Sri K. VINAYAKAM : In the statement that is placed on the Table of the House, regarding Backward Class students, the number eligible for admission is given as 244. Why then 227 candidates were interviewed out of which only 114 were taken?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, although there is a large number of applications of candidates who were eligible, in view of the limited number of seats available, all the applicants who are eligible were not interviewed. That is how the numbers vary.

Sri K. VINAYAKAM : If the number of seats available for admission is limited, should not the same rule be applied to the forward classes also with a corresponding reduction in the number of seats allotted to them. It is evident that 60 per cent of the seats have been given to the forward classes. That means the seats allotted to the backward classes have been taken away and given to the forward classes? 9-50 a.m.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is nothing like that. The results are there. For Civil Engineering 43 candidates belonging to the Backward Classes were selected as against 62, for Electrical Engineering 23 as against 30 and for Mechanical Engineering 21 as against 37.

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN : What is the total number of seats available. Hereafter, will the selection be made on a district-war basis?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member may put a separate question.

Sub-Collector's bungalow at Tellicherry

* 2824 Q.—Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have issued orders abandoning the Sub-Collector's bungalow at Tellicherry; and

(b) whether any portions in the compound of the building have slipped off into the sea?

[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 423 infra.

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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) No sir.

(*b*) A portion of the compound wall to a length of about 25 feet slipped down due to sea erosion during the monsoon in July 1953, but immediate action was taken to repair the revetment to prevent further damage.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Have the Government received any representation or complaint from the neighbouring high school authorities that their building is aso endangered or jeopardised on account of lack of attention being paid to the preservation of the Sub-Collector's bungalow?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : I have no information about it. A separate question may be put.

Eviction of Harijans

* 2825 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that 75 Harijan families living at the Corporation Old Basin Wharf, Waltax Road, Madras, have been served with eviction notices by the Corporation authorities without providing them alternative sites as required by the Government;

(*b*) whether any representation was received from the Harijan residents in May 1955 against their eviction; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) Eviction notices were served by the Corporation of Madras only on 50 Harijan families. They were evicted and accommodated in Thiru. Vi. Ka. Nagar. Fifteen families were also living in the Wharf as tenants under the 50 families. Action is being taken by the Corporation to provide them alternative sites in the Market Farm, Tondiarpet.

(*b*) Representations were received by the Director of Harijan Welfare and the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras.

(*c*) On an examination of the representation it was found that the site was acquired for the expansion of the Central Lorry Station and that as the expansion of the Lorry Station as well as Corporation workshop and construction of a school on that site had to be undertaken urgently, the Harijans had to be evicted. The 50 families have been given by the Government financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 10 per family to put up fresh huts on the new site. The Government considered that no further action was necessary on the representation.